



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2009

**Permit and Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Mary Basham, Patricia Boyd, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely, Lisa Maldonado, Donna Roper, Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Christina Brenner

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Dell Jacoby

I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:

Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

The Agenda for April 9, 2009 was approved; minutes from the March 12, 2009 Commission meeting were approved with minor revision. (Famini/Kiely)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michele Doyle of UASA, liaison to Petaluma Police Department. Ms. Doyle updated the Commission on the collaborative efforts of UASA and Petaluma Police Department in working with victims of sexual abuse. This collaboration provides comprehensive victim assistance, including case review, crisis intervention, victim support through the investigative process, and providing a buffer zone between the victim, law enforcement and other agencies. Support usually of a 2-3 month duration, although may be longer.

IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:

Swearing in of New Commissioners:

None

Appointments and Openings:

Kiely reported that there is one vacancy in the 2nd District (1), one (1) in the 3rd District; one in the 4th District (1), and two (2) vacancies in the 5th District, totaling five openings



overall. Hollingsworth has resigned from the Commission, effective 4/9/09. When possible, Commissioners will distribute information about Commission openings.

V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Announcements:

- ◇ Roper brought flyers and application packets from the League of Women's Voters of West County.
- ◇ Roper reported that April 20 is the Week of the Young Child; an event will be held at the Furth Center April 24; she also reported that May 8 a comprehensive plan for child care will be issued.
- ◇ Roper reported that she was interviewed twice on KMGG for Women's History Month.
- ◇ Maldonado reported that there will be a meeting regarding the Employee Free Choice Act on April 18 at SRJC.

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- ◇ Vivio reported that she, Allen and Famini met with Supervisor Brown to update her on the efforts of the Commission. Supervisor Brown reiterated her support of the Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Self Sufficiency Calculator:

Maldonado reported the ad hoc committee addressing a calculator for Sonoma County has grown to include SEIU team members and a financial planner for low income women. Commissioners Roper and Vivio are also on the Committee. This effort will move to Ad Hoc Committee Reports and Maldonado will chair.

Feedback on Women's History Project Sponsorship:

Famini reported that the event was well attended and CSW was well represented; five Junior Commissioners introduced the award winners and the Juniors were graceful and professional in their introductions. There was interest in our booth and in CSW. The film was excellent. Acosta, who moderated the beginning part of the event, thought the Juniors effort was excellent. The event was well attended and received. She was disappointed overall that the event production was disorganized and that the Commission was the only sponsor, even though we had been informed that others were also sponsoring. Acosta is pleased that the event went well, but requests the record show that business with the NWHP was not well done and placed the Commission in an awkward position (conflict of interest, contract ratification required, lack of clarity on sponsorship.)

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Reimbursement of Expenses:

The Commission moved to reimburse Brenner for the purchase of materials for the Non-Traditional Career Task Force.

Planning for May 5 Juniors Reception:

Commissioners Basham and Roper volunteered to prepare refreshments for the Junior Commissioner Reception on May 5; staff to prepare and send out invitations; staff reported

that Supervisors Valerie Brown and Shirlee Zane and Petaluma City Councilmember Tiffany Renée will sit the Women's Political Panel at the Reception; the Reception Program will contain summaries of the Junior focus groups. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Distribution of next year's Junior Commission application is ready to begin. Staff to send to schools, CSW and Board aides.

Presentation to Board of Supervisors on May 12:

Famini will arrange with Juniors for the presentation at 8:30. Famini and two Juniors will present.

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Junior Commission (Famini):

Vivio reported that the trip to Sacramento went well. Both Vivio and Brenner accompanied the Juniors. They met with Wes Chesbro's staff, as well as Mark Leno's staff, who were interested and supportive of the Juniors and the Project. After lunch, a VIP Tour was arranged for the group.

Women's History Month Coordinator (Basham/ Roper/Vivio):

With Hollingsworth's resignation, the Commission discussed the opportunity to make some revisions to the project. Roper felt continuance of the school outreach was important; Acosta also feels that without advocacy, schools are less likely to focus on Women's History Month; she wondered if the Commission should broaden its focus to reach outside schools; Basham agreed to take leadership of the project; Kiely thought now would be a good time to focus on local women's history and volunteered to assist, as did Roper and Vivio.

Self-Sufficiency Calculator (Acosta):

See Old Business.

Representation and Legislation Task Force (Acosta/Roper/Vivio):

Roper reported that this Task Force is moving forward on two projects: training for appointment to Boards and Commissions and legislation effecting women. Roper will explore training for appointments; Vivio is researching legislation on Human Trafficking and Acosta is researching issues regarding domestic violence. The goal is to encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt a position on legislation effecting women and girls.

Older Women's Issues Task Force (Allen/Kiely):

Kiely reported that resources are readily available to address the needs of older women in our community; this group will now focus on a mechanism to get the word out to older women about resources; a new focus will be on employment opportunities for older women, perhaps utilizing a letter campaign.

Speakers Series Task Force (Brenner):

Kiely reported that she and Brenner met with the Healdsburg AAUW chapter on CSW, its projects and recruitment to the Commission. They were well received and presented for 2 hours. Brenner will also present to the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs this month.

Recruitment Task Force (Acosta):

No report. The Commission has representation in all Districts.

Liaison Report:

- ◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**
Commission has been added to ACCW mailing list and will be notified of events and issues of importance.
- ◇ **Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison (Boyd):**
No report.
- ◇ **Family Justice Center Liaison (Boyd):**
Boyd reported that funding is moving along; Blue Shield and the California Endowment are being solicited; at the last meeting the committee broke into groups and described the different aspects of the facility; the vision for the Center is “one-stop” assistance for victims of crimes; Boyd inquired how the Commission would like to be involved with the Family Justice Center. This will be discussed at a later date.
- ◇ **Community Issues Liaison (formerly Human Trafficking) (Brenner):**
No report.
- ◇ **Non-Traditional Career Exploration Liaison (Brenner):**
No report.

IX. STAFF REPORT:

Correspondence:

None

Attendance Report Distribution:

Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners.

Update on Staff Activities:

Staff updated the Commission on current budget planning for the Human Resources Department and the Commissions. At this time, there is no anticipated change to the Commission’s operating budget.

X. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Acosta adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.